national (in the case of India, State) boundaries is a good example for a federal country like India.

(d) Postponment was found necessary to enable completion of various legislative measures as well as administrative actions in areas like computerisation, staff training, allaying apprehensions about the VAT system in certain sections of trade and industry, etc.

Fake currency notes

59. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 26th January, 2002 captioned, "Read dilemma: No authority to authenticate .fake currency notes in India";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry in consultation with RBI has so far issued any guidelines to law enforcement agencies for identification of fake currency notes; and

(d) if so, the number of fake currency rackets busted during 2001-2002 including one reported in The Hindustan Times, dated the 31st January, 2002 and what action Government has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item mentions the difficulties faced by Police in obtaining expert opinion regarding genuineness or otherwise of seized suspected counterfeit notes, from the Note Printing Presses.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Security features of bank notes have been made available to the Police authorities and training programmes are also arranged by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) offices from time to time for the police officers to enable them to identify the fake notes.

(d) As per the records maintained by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) there were 852 incidents of seizure made by the Police, involving 1399 accused, during the year, 2001.